

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending and rejected in this application; and claims 1-11 and 15 are amended hereby.

Responsive to the objection to claims 1, 10 and 11, based on informalities, Applicant has amended claims 1, 10 and 11, and submits that the claims are now in allowable form.

Responsive to the rejection of claim 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,967,041 (Bowman) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,435,916 (Amberg et al. ), Applicant has amended claims 1-10 and 15, and submits that claims 1-15 are now in condition for allowance.

Bowman discloses a floor box including a front wall 2, a back wall 6 and parallel side walls 10 and 11 (column 2, lines 4-8). Plate 41 is oriented at an angle and is attached to back wall 6 (Fig. 1; column 3, lines 4-10). Cover 50 defines a power channel and has opening 60, which receive a wire connector 61. Wire connector 61 is adapted to receive cable head 62. Receptacle 43 is electrically connected to wire connector 61 by conductor 63 (column 3, lines 22-31). Apertures 46 are provided in front wall 2 to allow the shank of a screw driver, as shown in Fig. 3, to be inserted through apertures 46 so that screws in plates 40, 41 and 42 may be accessed (column 3, lines 7-10).

Amberg et al. disclose an electrical power connector for a printed circuit board (Figs. 1-6) including an input power receptacle 101 and an output power receptacle 102 integrally formed in a single housing 103. Line, neutral and ground receptacles 110, 111 and 112 are configured to receive the male line, neutral and ground electrical contacts of a conventional internal power cord for a PC board (column 3, lines 7-36). Power connector 100 mounts on PC board 400 by way of a snap connection. An aperture 401 in PC board 400 is configured in substantially the same shape

as output power receptacle 102. Power connector 100 mounts along a common access perpendicular to PC board 400 (column 4, lines 6-19).

In contrast claim 1, as amended, recites in part:

at least one pass-through connector ... connected to said electrical cable connector on the inside of said housing and to said mating power connector on the outside of said housing.

(Emphasis added) Applicant submits that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by Bowman and Amberg et al. or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, and includes distinct advantages thereover.

Bowman discloses a floor box including a receptacle 43 electrically connected to wire connector 61 by conductor 63. Amberg et al. disclose an electrical power connector for a printed circuit board including a power connector 100 mounted on PC board 400 by way of a snap connection. However, neither Bowman or Amberg et al., alone or in combination with any other cited reference, fails to disclose, teach or suggest at least one pass-through connector connected to an electrical cable connector on the inside of the housing and a mating power connector on the outside of the housing, as recited in claim 1.

Applicant's invention has an advantage over each of the cited references, in that the pass-through connector allows the disconnecting of an interior wiring configuration and the easy replacement thereof with an alternate wiring configuration. Another advantage is that the Applicant's invention. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 1, and claims 2-9 and 15 depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

In further contrast, claim 10, as amended, recites in part:

[a] pass-through connector ... being connected to said electrical cable connector on the inside of the underfloor receptacle box and a mating power connector on the outside of the underfloor receptacle box.

(Emphasis added) Applicant submits that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by Bowman and Amberg et al. or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, and includes distinct advantages thereover.

Bowman discloses a floor box including a receptacle 43 electrically connected to wire connector 61 by conductor 63. Amberg et al. disclose an electrical power connector for a printed circuit board including a power connector 100 mounted on PC board 400 by way of a snap connection. However, neither Bowman or Amberg et al., alone or in combination with any other cited reference, fails to disclose, teach or suggest a pass-through connector being connected to an electrical cable connector on the inside of the underfloor receptacle box and a mating power connector on the outside of the underfloor receptacle box, as recited in claim 10.

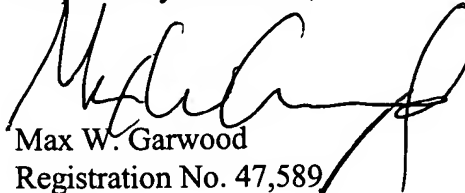
Applicant's invention has an advantage over each of the cited references, in that the pass-through connector allows the disconnecting of an interior wiring configuration and the easy replacement thereof with an alternate wiring configuration. Another advantage is that the Applicant's invention Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 10, and claims 11-14 depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that no combination of the cited references teaches, discloses or suggests the subject matter of the amended claims. The pending claims are therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

In the event Applicant has overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicant hereby conditionally petitions therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095, TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 897-3400.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Max W. Garwood  
Registration No. 47,589

MWG/dc

TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.  
142 S. Main Street  
P.O. Box 560  
Avilla, IN 46710  
Telephone: 260-897-3400  
Facsimile: 260-897-9300

Enc.: Return postcard

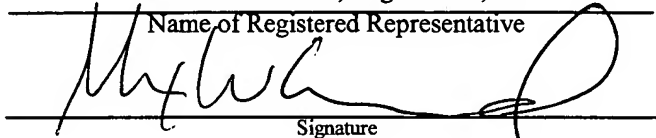
Attorney for Applicant

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Box Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on: April 30, 2003.

Max W. Garwood, Reg. No. 47,589

Name of Registered Representative

  
Signature

April 30, 2003

Date